GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:143
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2003
UNSAFE DRINKING WATER
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Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quantity of chemicals, heavy metals and bacteria have increased in the potable drinking water in the country particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Water Check:E. Delhi tops AIIMScomes last` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated September 1, 2002;

(d) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether it is a fact that most of the Delhites are getting unsafe drinking water supplied by Delhi Jal Board through ageing and rusted pipes;

(f) if so, whether it is also a fact that a number of school children have fallen ill due to contaminated drinking water recently;

(g) the reasons for not replacing drinking water pipes in the Government buildings including residential colonies; and

(h) the steps the Government propose to take for providing safe drinking water to delhites?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI RADHAKIRISHNAN)

(a)&(b): Water supply projects in various States in India are planned, designed and executed by the State Public Health Engineering Departments/Water Supply Boards/Urban Local Bodies. Thewater is to be supplied in accordance with recommended guideline values indicated in the Manual on Water Supply & Treatment, published by Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation in May, 1999 and BIS (IS- 10500-1993).

As far as potable water supply in Delhi is concerned, the Delhi Jal Board has informed that it does not contain chemicals, heavy metals and bacteria.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) have informedthat drinking water being supplied by them in Delhi conforms to the laid down standards and Bureau of Indian Standards IS 10500- 1993.The quality of underground water extracted by any institution like AIIMS is not checked by DJB.

(e): No, Sir. The DJB has reported that it is supplyingsafe drinking water to the residents of Delhi. Old pipes are replaced in an accelerated manner. 920 Kms. length of pipeline has already been replaced since 1999.

(f): The DJB has indicated that a case of illness of some students of Maharaja Agarsen Public School of Pitampura,Delhi was reported in the Press. However, it found that the water being supplied by DJB was potable and the problem was in one of the water coolers in the school.

(g): As stated in reply to part (e) above, DJB is replacing the old pipes with new ones in a phased manner.

(h): The DJB is taking following steps to provide safe drinking water to Delhites:-

i) Regular surveillance of quality of water is done by lifting and testing the water samples right from raw water intake upto consumer`s end. About 300 water samples are lifted daily and tested by well-equipped 06 nos. laboratories, 1000 samples are lifted every day for testing residual chlorine.

ii) 140 MGD Water treatment plant is being set up at Sonia Vihar Trans Yamuna area and targeted to be completed by December,

2003.

iii) A regular survey is being done to replace corroded/leaking water mains.

iv) About 1000 tankers/trucks have been deployed to provide drinking water to deficient areas.